

2. (Amended) The stator winding support structure of claim 1 wherein said tie is arranged around a portion of said lamination and a portion of said binding ring.

3. (Amended) The stator winding support structure of claim 1 wherein said lamination includes a first tooth and a second tooth, said slot being defined between said first tooth and said second tooth, and said first tooth and said second tooth being integral with said lamination.

4. (Amended) The stator winding support structure of claim 3 wherein said lamination includes a third tooth integral with said lamination to define another slot between said second tooth and said third tooth to receive said stator winding.

5. (Amended) The stator winding support structure of claim 1 further comprising a felt ring arranged around an outer circumference of said binding ring so that said felt ring is arranged between said binding ring and said lamination.

6. (Amended) The stator winding support structure of claim 1 further comprising a tire arranged around an outer circumference of said

binding ring so that said tire is arranged between said binding ring and said lamination.

7. (Amended) The stator winding support structure of claim 1 further comprising another tie coupled to said binding ring.

13. (Amended) A method of forming a stator winding support structure, the method comprising:

providing a binding ring;

forming a slot in a lamination to receive a stator winding; and

coupling said lamination to said binding ring by arranging a tie around a portion of said lamination and a portion of said binding ring to enable said stator winding to be held within said slot.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein forming said lamination includes forming a third tooth integral with said lamination to define another slot between said second tooth and said third tooth to receive said stator winding.

24. (Amended) A stator comprising:

a binding ring;

a stator winding;

a lamination coupled to at least a portion of an outer circumference of said binding ring, said lamination having a slot formed therein for receiving the

stator winding, the slot being defined between a portion of the outer circumference of the binding ring and a portion of an inner perimeter of the lamination; and

a tie coupled to said lamination and said binding ring to enable said stator winding to be held within said slot.

25. (Amended) The stator of claim 24 wherein said tie is arranged completely around a portion of said lamination and a portion of said binding ring.

26. (Amended) The stator of claim 24 wherein said lamination includes a first tooth and a second tooth, said slot being defined between said first tooth and said second tooth, and said first tooth and said second tooth being integral with said lamination.

27. (Amended) The stator of claim 26 wherein said lamination includes a third tooth integral with said lamination to define another slot between said second tooth and said third tooth to receive said stator winding.

28. (Amended) The stator of claim 24 further comprising a felt ring arranged around the outer circumference of said binding ring so that said felt ring is arranged between said binding ring and said lamination and between the binding ring and the slot.

29. (Amended) The stator of claim 24 further comprising a tire arranged around the outer circumference of said binding ring so that said tire is arranged between said binding ring and said lamination and between the binding ring and the slot.

30. (Amended) The stator of claim 24 further comprising another tie coupled to said binding ring.

31. (Amended) The stator of claim 30 wherein the tie is arranged around a portion of an inner circumference of the binding ring and a portion of an outer perimeter of the lamination.

32. (Amended) A method of forming a stator, the method comprising:

providing a binding ring and a stator winding;

forming a slot in a lamination to receive a stator winding; and

coupling said lamination to at least a portion of an outer circumference of said binding ring by arranging a tie completely around a portion of said lamination and a portion of said binding ring to enable said stator winding to be held within said slot, the slot being defined between a portion of the outer circumference of the binding ring and a portion of the inner perimeter of the lamination.